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I, SMILJA DRAGOSAVLJEVIC, TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION SUPPORT AND SALES hereby certify that annexed is a true copy of the Provisional specification in connection with Application No. PS 1092 for a patent by DANIEL G PROKOP and ELSPETH MCINTOSH as filed on 14 March 2002.

WITNESS my hand this
Twenty-fifth day of March 2003

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SUPPORT AND SALES

Regulation 3.

Daniel G Prokop and Elspeth McIntosh

A U S T R A L I A

Patents Act 1990

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

for the invention entitled:

"Support Base"

The invention is described in the following statement:

SUPPORT BASE

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates generally to the field of computers and in particular accessories designed for use with computers such as bases or pads for supporting a computer.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Since their inception, personal computers have penetrated both business and private environments almost throughout the world. Typically a personal computer will comprise hardware enclosed within an outer casing and forming the processing, memory capacity and disk drives of the system. The hardware and casing is usually referred to as the computer. Various essential accessories are then coupled to the computer to provide a working system. Those accessories may typically include a video display screen, a printer, a keyboard, a mouse, a microphone, speakers and a web camera.

The computer itself may be located in operating position in a variety of alternative locations. Those locations may include the top of a desk, on a ledge, on a purpose built support device or on the floor.

Although reasonably robust, a computer is vulnerable to a number of types of damage which include accumulation of dust and impact. Computers being sensitive, sophisticated electronic devices are particularly vulnerable to damage from the ingress of moisture. Further, the aesthetic appeal of a computer is traditionally somewhat limited. This absence of aesthetic appeal is often exaggerated by the presence of a tangle of cables emerging from the cable connection region of the computer and lying in disordered fashion in the local

environment of the device. Such a tangle may also present a risk to passing pedestrian traffic.

Computers presented in a tower configuration are also prone to toppling sideways when impacted laterally particularly when the point of contact is towards the upper edge of the tower.

It would be of advantage to provide a computer support base which could be easily and effectively applied to the purpose of supporting a computer and preferably providing an aesthetically appealing effect.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Throughout this specification, unless the context requires otherwise, the word "comprise", or variations such as "comprises" or "comprising", will be understood to imply the inclusion of a stated element or integer or group of elements or integers but not the exclusion of any other element or integer or group of elements or integers.

In one form, although it need not be the only or indeed the broadest form, the invention residues in a support base for a computer, said support base comprising:

a support body;

retention means for retaining the computer on the support body; and

weight bearing means for carrying the support body above a supporting surface.

The support body is preferably dimensioned to extend beyond an outer perimeter of a casing of the computer.

The support body may include auxiliary support means for supporting one or more of web cameras, microphones, speakers and disk drives. The auxiliary support

means may comprise one or more of a ledge, a recess, a hook, a hook and loop fastener and a male/female coupling.

The support body may be formed with a substantially planar upper surface. The retention means may be formed as a recess in the support body. The recess is preferably dimensioned to receive a lower portion of the computer casing, preferably with frictional engagement between the lower portion of the computer casing and a peripheral wall defining the recess, at least in part.

Alternatively or additionally, the retention means may comprise one or more upwardly directed projections from the support body. The projections may be arranged to abut at least part of the computer casing. The one or more projections may form an inlet for receiving the lower portion of the computer casing. The one or more projections may comprise an anterior wall. The anterior wall may be removably engaged with the support body. The anterior wall may be formed integrally with the support base. The anterior wall may be hingedly engaged with the support base. The anterior wall may be continuous with one, or preferably, two side return structures. The side return structures may be formed as a wall. The anterior wall may be adapted to display visual material such as images and/or written material. The anterior wall may have an outermost surface adapted to releasably receive visible material such as images and/or writing or notes.

The weight bearing means may comprise a plurality of spaced feet. The spaced feet may be distributed around a downwardly facing surface of the support body. Preferably at least some of the spaced feet are located outside an outer perimeter of the computer casing. All the spaced feet may be located outside the outer perimeter.

The support base may include illumination means. The illumination means is preferably an electric light source. The illumination means may be adapted to highlight a range of colours and designs to enhance their visual appeal.

The support base may include a cable shield for shielding a cable connection region of the computer. The cable shield may form a posterior wall of the support base. Preferably the cable shield is dimensioned to substantially cover the cable connection region and located in spaced relationship to the cable connection region.

The cable shield may be continuous with one or preferably two rear side return structures. The side return structures may be walls. The cable shield may include a cable aperture for passage of cables through the support base to the cable connection region. The cable shield may be removably connected to the support body or alternatively may be integrally formed with the support body. The cable shield may be hingedly connected to the support base to facilitate easy access to the cable connections.

The Cable Shield may also be used to fit a device or devices designed to reduce the amount of Electromagnetic Radiation (EMR) emitted from the computer.

The support base may include a cable storing cavity. The cable storing cavity is preferably located under the support body. The cavity may be dimensioned to receive excess cable. The cable storage cavity may have an access aperture.

The storage cavity may also be adapted to receive various devices including but not limited to sound speakers, devices to receive signals from wireless keyboards and mouses.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a front view of a support base and computer.

Figure 2 is a top perspective view of the arrangement of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a bottom perspective view of the arrangement of Figure 1.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Referring to Figure 1 there is seen a support base 10 for a computer 11. The computer 11 is shown in a tower configuration having a CD drive 12 and floppy disk drive 13 formed as access apertures in outer casing 14. The outer casing 14 surrounds and protects the internal components of the computer including the hard disk drive, the central processing unit, the CD and floppy disk drives and associated circuitry. The range of internal componentry may be quite extensive with a wide range of optional components available to a purchaser.

The support base 10 has a support body 15 which has a recess formed in part by sidewalls 16 dimensioned to receive a lower portion of the outer case and preferably to engage at least part of the lower portion with frictional retention capacity. The side walls 16 are located above a substantially table like structure of the majority of the support body 15. Curved outer walls 17 are provided to both enhance the aesthetic appeal of the support base 10 and also to extend the support body 15 beyond an outer perimeter of the outer casing 14. This extension leads to a broader bottom surface 18 which provides a downwardly facing surface to receive weight bearing means in the form of feet 19. The bottom surface 18 may be perforated to allow air circulation and prevent the accumulation of any liquids or moisture that may be spilt or accumulate into the support base. The feet 19 may be distributed in spaced relationship to each other as required or desired by a manufacturer. However, if the feet 19 are located outside the perimeter of the outer casing 14 the stability of the device and the computer is enhanced. The feet preferably have a non-skid lower surface. The non-skid lower surface may be removably applicable to the feet.

The support base 10 has a slightly recessed area at 9 which may receive

removable clip on plastic devices (similar to the colourful front facades available for many mobile phones) which will enhance the visual appeal of the support base 10. Support base 10 has an anterior wall 20 which further enhances the ability of the support base 10 to receive and retain the computer 11. The anterior wall 20 has a substantially planar surface 21 which is adapted to receive visual material such as photographs, images, holograms and written material. In one embodiment the planar surface 21 may be adapted to releasably receive devices such as sheets of plastic or paper or metal for carrying messages. These devices may be turned to useful purposes such as placing reminders in front of a user of the computer or recording phone numbers of interest or any other of a wide range of applications. In the present embodiment, the anterior wall 20 has chamfered edges 22 which again enhance the aesthetic appeal of the device and also provide a transition to returns on either side of the anterior wall 20. The returns are visible in Figure 2.

Referring to Figure 2 the anterior side wall returns 23 are apparent and provide a lateral stability to retention of the computer 11. Also visible in this view is cable shield 24 which is located at a posterior or rearward region of the support base 10 and dimensioned to provide a spaced relationship to the cable connection region of the computer 11. Typically such a region is located on the rearward surface of the computer 11. The cable shield 24 may have a decorative aperture 25 which may also enhance air flow around the back of the computer 11. The cable shield 24 also includes posterior side wall returns 26 to provide further lateral resistance to sideways displacement of the computer 11 from the support base 10. The side wall 16 may be continuous with the returns 23, 26 or may be independently formed. The cable shield 24 may be permanently attached or formed integrally with the support body 15 or may be removably amounted to the facilitate replacement of the cable shield if damaged or repair or in some formats simply providing for rotation of different styles, colours and configuration of cable shields.

While the side wall 16 and associated recess is shown as formed in continuous

fashion, it is readily apparent to a skilled addressee that individual picket like projections or tabs may be harnessed to provide a similar function. Likewise the configuration of the anterior wall 20 and cable shield 24 may be varied in any suitable fashion. For example, the anterior wall may have a curved or bulbous surface instead of a planar surface 21. Many other and varied configurations will be apparent to those skilled in the art.

A bottom perspective view of the computer 11 and support base 10 is seen in Figure 3. This view highlights the spaced distribution of the feet 19 and also discloses a cavity 26 defined by body each wall 27. The cavity 26 is dimensioned to receive excess cables which may be urged into the cavity for convenient safe and neat storage. The cables may be coiled or bunched in cavity 26 providing a convenient repository for excess computer cables. Clearance of the bottom surface from a support surface may be conveniently 8mm or more.

Cable access to the cable connection region may be facilitated by the aperture 28 which permits routing of cables from behind the computer through the aperture 28 and to their ultimate connection ports on the back of the computer. The present configuration is suitable for location over a computer cable outlet aperture such as is commonly formed in present day desks. This arrangement provides a very neat deployment of cables which may exit from the disk aperture through the aperture 28 and into connection with the computer with virtual absence of visual profile to the user of the device and others.

In an alternative embodiment, part of the body edge wall 27 may be removed or removable to provide access through the body edge wall 27 to the aperture 28 and subsequent continuation to engagement with the computer.

The present invention is noteworthy for providing a safe and effective support of computer out of contact with an actual support structure such as a desk, a table, a ledge or the floor. In the latter case impact from devices such as vacuum cleaner

heads is minimised and the computer itself is shielded from direct impact. If the base is formed from a shock absorbing material such a neoprene, nylon or carbon fibre, the protection function of the device is magnified. One preferred material is acrylobutylene styrene ("ABS") and polycarbonate. The present invention also provides an aesthetically appealing and practical organisational tool for a computer. Further the present invention allows the use of aesthetically appealing imagery on the device and in particular on the anterior surface or the anterior wall which may use commercially successful and popular imagery such as photographs taken from successful or famous films. The anterior surface may serve a functional device in retaining notes or reminders for ready visualisation by a user. If the anterior wall is made as a removable device, different colours and advertising motifs may be used as a replacement for interchangeable anterior walls to thereby create a different visual image for the computer base and indeed the computer itself. A series of replaceable facias may be provided to clip onto the anterior wall. Finally, the anterior wall may be used as a display surface for trade marks and other advertising indicia.

Throughout the specification the aim has been to describe the preferred embodiments of the invention without limiting the invention to any one embodiment or specific collection of features. Those of skill in the art will therefore appreciate that, in light of the instant disclosure, various modifications and changes can be made in the particular embodiments exemplified without departing from the scope of the present invention. All such modifications and changes are intended to be included within the scope of the disclosure.

DATED this 14th day of March 2002
Daniel G Prokop and Elspeth McIntosh
by DAVIES COLLISON CAVE
Patent Attorneys for the Applicants

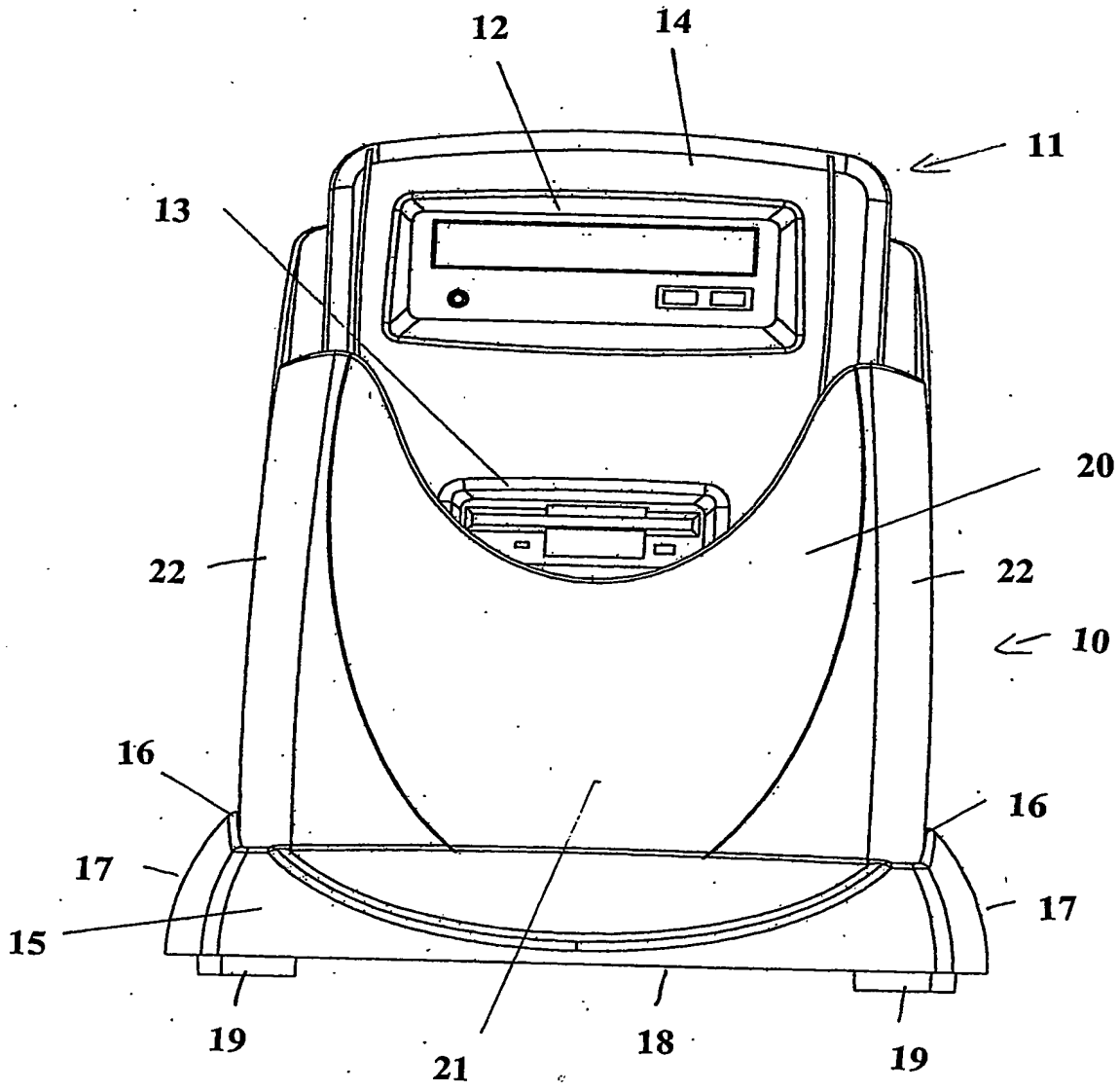

FIGURE 1

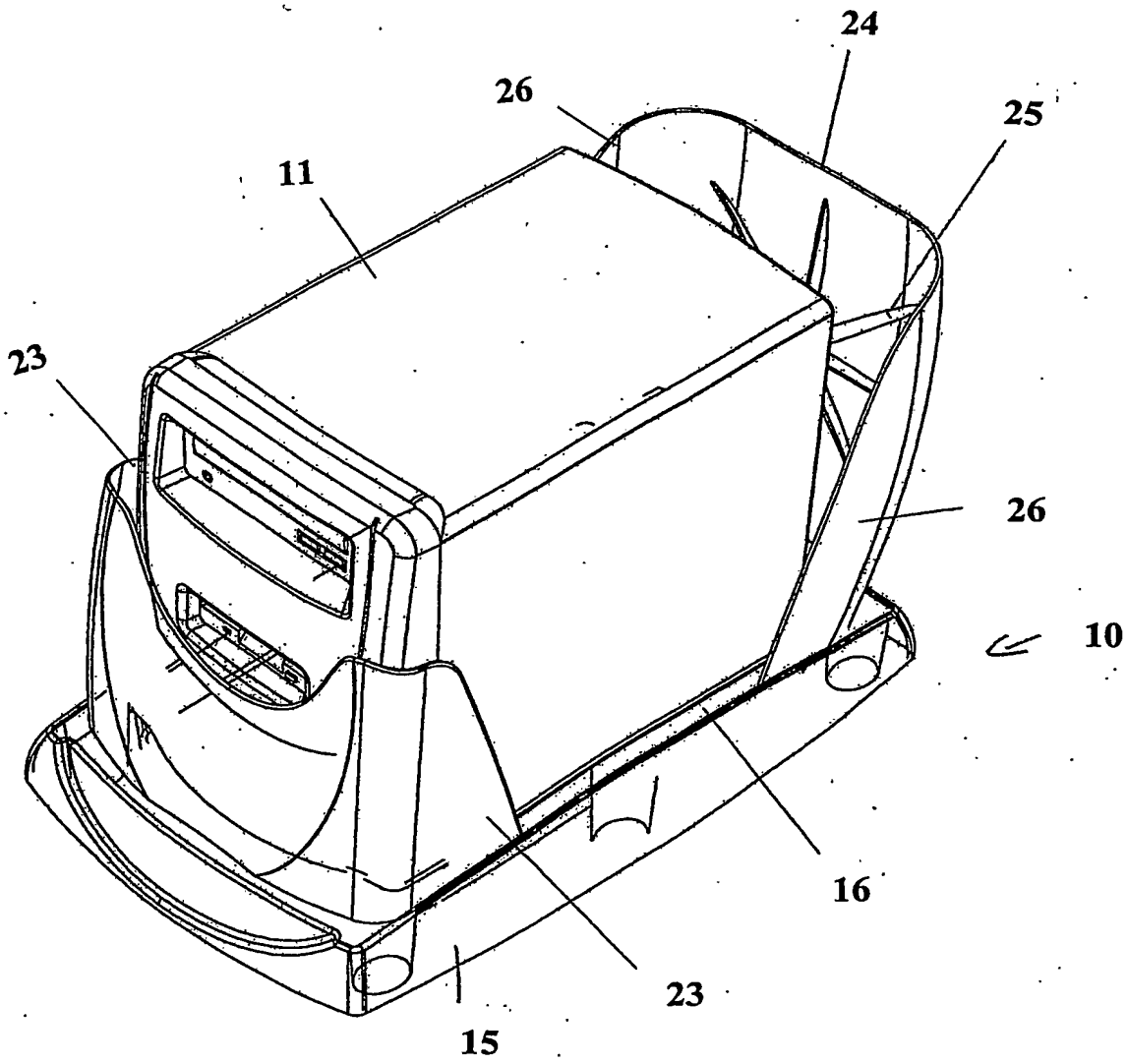

FIGURE 2

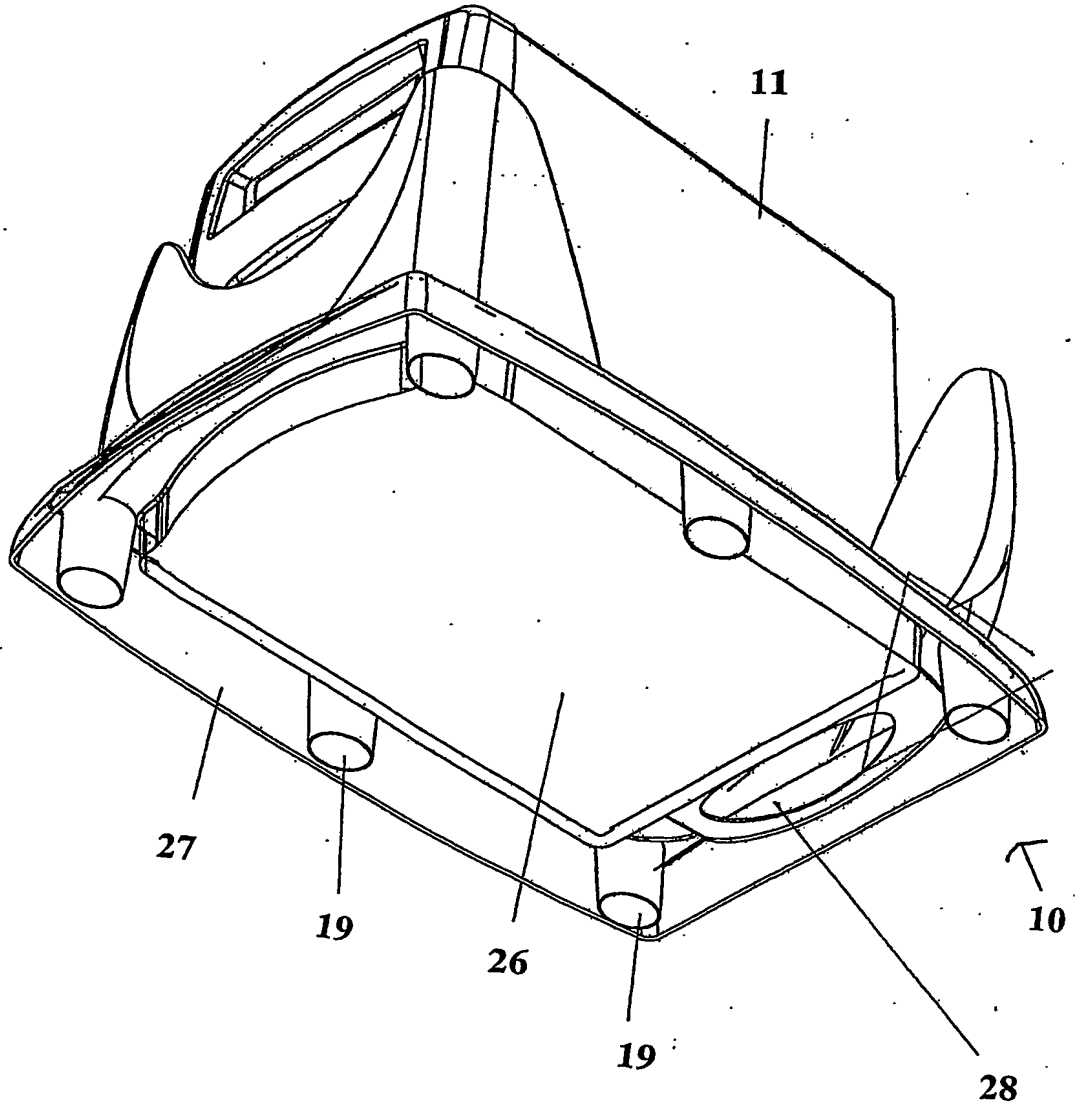

FIGURE 3

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